



City of Houston

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Criteria for Light Rail Transit Construction in the proposed University Corridor

In April and May 2006, public meetings hosted by Council Members Clutterbuck, Edwards, and Holm, were held to seek community input on the proposed Metro light rail University Corridor. Across the corridor the public expressed several consistent ideas at each forum urging objective criteria for the selection of the line. The following criteria are also consistent with existing standards for neighborhoods and businesses within Districts C, D, and G:

1. Protect and enhance residential neighborhoods along corridor.

- Enhance quality of place; e.g. respect for neighborhood character, trees, landscaping and sidewalks. Maintain or improve landscaped medians.
- Ensure that transit facilities and street designs are sensitive to surrounding current and future neighborhoods.
- Provide mitigating improvements to areas that are negatively impacted by transit facilities and operations.

2. Protect and enhance local businesses and institutions.

- Maintain access to businesses and institutions in design of streets and transit facilities.
- Ensure that temporary access routes are well and properly signed.
- Provide mitigating improvements to areas that are negatively impacted by transit improvements and operations sensitive to character of surrounding areas.

3. Protect and enhance community mobility.

- Maintain or increase the number of moving lanes on major streets.
- Maintain or improve level of service of all intersections.
- Coordinate pedestrian, transit & vehicular signal operations—as opposed to signal preemption—in order to enhance overall mobility
- Maintain access to neighborhoods, businesses and institutions.
- Maintain number and length of turning lanes with medians wherever possible.
- Procure sufficient R.O.W. to accommodate all street functions including transit, vehicles, pedestrians, and landscaped areas.
- Review and approval by the City of Houston Director of Public Works & Engineering of all traffic and mobility plans – temporary construction and permanent impacts.

4. Properly manage construction activities.

- Rebuild entire streets and sidewalks.
- Phase construction in 2,000-ft. segments reaching completion before moving to the next segment.
- Review and approval by the City of Houston Director of Public Works & Engineering of all street and utility designs and construction scheduling.
- Minimize impacts with flexible daily construction work periods.
- Utilize a partnership of resources to communicate construction activities well in advance to affected parties.
- Communicate planned interruption of utilities and access in advance to affected properties.
- Keep construction areas clean and orderly.